

3500 B.C.

Irrigation systems create the food surpluses needed to sustain the world's 1st cities. Their inhabitants, the Sumerians, invent writing, a cornerstone of civilization. A powerful priesthood emerges to serve local deities whose temples dominate each city.

C 3500 BC

The earliest mesopotamian as
other ancient peoples were lunar,
going back into prehistoric
times.

3,500 BC

The delta grew as the Nile sent more sediment down the Suddanic branch, creating fertile land that attracted human settlement.

c. 3500 BC

(prin to 2991 BC \pm)

Oldest Egyptian Cal

Counted 12 lunations beginning
with heliacal rising of star SIRIUS

An extra lunar month was
intercalated when it became necessary
to rectify the system to agricultural yr.

c3500BC

Here is a Terra-cotta Vase (Egyptian
from about 3500 BC.

c 3,500 BC,

Egyptians built their temples and pyramids using a standard of length derived from their own pharaoh.

The Royal Cubit = 20.6 in
= 523 mm

was the length of his forearm from elbow to the tip of the middle finger

A standard cubit was made of a block of black granite used as the basis for further rules made of stone or wood.

3,500 BC

The oldest known writing is Sumerian. The land of Sumer was roughly where Iraq is today. They pressed the end of a stick into the surface of soft clay tablets making 3-cornered marks. Since the marks looked like wedges, this form of writing is called CUNEIFORM.

The Babylonians, as well as others
borrowed cuneiform writing from
the Sumerians. For more than
2000 years men in this part
of the world wrote with these
wedge marks.

Clay tablets lasted for centuries
Scholars in modern times have found
thousands

3500 BC \Rightarrow 3000 BC

PROTOLITERATE Period

C357UBC

Gold mining was done in
Mesopotamia.

c 3500 BC

Zebu cattle domesticated

3500 BC

Writing.

3500 BC

Wheel. Early use of the wheel, in pottery making in Mesopotamia, was associated particularly with mass-produced Sumerian pottery, from 4000 BC (URUK times). The earliest evidence for the wagon wheel comes in a Sumerian pictogram of a wagon 3,500 BC where it is clearly seen to be a sled fitted with wheels, and the pictograms

capture a technological change better than one
is entitled to expect in archeology. The wagon
wheel was not necessarily invented by the
Sumerians, and people with both plows
and carts showed up in Europe from 3300 BC.
True spoked wheels appeared c 2100 BC
in CAPPADOCIA (modern Turkey)

3500BC

Uruk (modern WARKA), the greatest Sumerian city, already possessed many features of the city state by 3500BC.